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# Senate Pulls A Fast One

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In an unusual display of Senatorial discourtesy, senators refused the request of Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon for postponement of the vote to confirm John McCone as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This action is fairly called unusual because of the special circumstances of Morse's situation. He was not away on personal business, a junket or a partisan political errand. He was in Punta del Este, Uruguay, putting his considerable legal acumen and political skills at the service of the faltering United States effort to quarantine Cuba as a Communist threat to the American hemisphere.



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What can be said with confidence and is well known to the Senate is that U.S. policy and tactics at Punta del Este were no better than the intelligence upon which Secretary Rusk and his aides acted. Similarly, the trained politicians who are senators perceive that somebody failed to count noses in advance of the crucial decisions that were taken, with their resultant harm to American leadership.

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It was surely clear to backers of the proposed new head of Central Intelligence that Morse, already disapproving, would return with an insider's look at the intelligence offered American negotiators and where it went wrong. All senators have a healthy respect for Morse as a lawyer and observer.

They chose not to give him a chance to fire his new ammunition, such as it might be. Senators are now on notice that they can be penalized in matters of moment to them personally if they venture upon international duty abroad.

Such maneuvers leave a bitter after-taste with untoward results. Many Democrats are for McCone only because the President named him; they question the wisdom of the choice on various grounds. And in the Senate particularly the Spanish proverb that one has no little enemies applies with peculiar force.

He was doing this as chairman of the American Republics Affairs subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was reluctant to go to Uruguay, but Secretary of State Dean Rusk persuaded him it was his duty. Morse opposed McCone's confirmation and insisted he must be on hand for the vote. But he was assured by the State Department that it would all be over but the celebrating at Punta del Este well before the McCone vote which took place Wednesday.